

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ACCEPTS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FOR STATE CAPITOL

RALEIGH – Gov. Easley today accepted on behalf of the state a variety of Christmas trees and wreaths from the 2006 North Carolina Christmas Tree Association Grand Champions. The trees and wreaths will decorate the State Capitol throughout the holiday season. The association makes the donation every year.

“This holiday season, millions of North Carolina Christmas trees will make their way into homes across the country,” said Easley. “We are proud to share such an important part of our state’s economy and natural heritage with the rest of the nation during this festive time of year.”

A 12-foot tree from Banner Brand Tree Farm in Avery County will be decorated by volunteers and placed in the State Capitol rotunda. The tree will feature ornaments made from natural materials native to North Carolina from all 100 counties in the state.

Wreaths from Cartner Christmas Tree Farm in Avery County will adorn the Capitol doors. The theme for this year’s decorations is “Trees of Imagination.” The decorations will be on display for the public beginning Sunday, December 3.

The State Capitol will host Holiday Open Houses featuring local performing groups daily Wednesday, December 6 through Sunday, December 10. (Wednesday – Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) Contact the Capitol Visitors Center at 733-4994 for more information about self-guided tours.

North Carolina is home to over 1,500 Christmas tree growers, who sell over 4.5 million trees per year, the second most in the nation. The North Carolina Fraser fir is the most popular Christmas tree in North America, with more than 50 million trees harvested annually.

David and Barbara Banner, owners of Banner Brand Tree Farm in Newland, were named the 2006 Grand Champion Fraser Fir Growers by the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association. Sam and Margaret Cartner, owners of Cartner Christmas Tree Farm in Newland were named the 2006 Grand Champion Wreath Makers by the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association. Both winners will represent North Carolina at the National Christmas Tree Association Tree and Wreath Contest in Des Moines, Iowa in August 2008.

Media Note: A photo of Governor Easley accepting holiday decorations on behalf of the state is attached and available online at www.governor.state.nc.us.

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